12 • NEXT STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

he IRCWMP presents a practical approach for identifying water resource projects and assembling these projects into a progressively integrated whole using the Dynamic Planning Approach. The Dynamic Planning Approach, the engine of the Plan, provides a practical way to first formulate a complete plan, and then to refine the plan, based on regional and local expertise, integration planning, advancements in science and technology, and enhanced stakeholder collaboration.

The IRCWMP proposes a simple prioritization process that recognizes the key multipurpose and integrated projects that accomplish Regional Performance Objectives.. Each viable project will have a completed project information form that will include a work plan to move the project from concept to implementation.

The IRCWMP is a valuable tool, allowing watershed managers to move forward with a comprehensive program that balances the needs of all our water resources. The IRCWMP is especially useful for highlighting partnerships and will serve as a tool in preparing funding strategies to accomplish tasks over the next 20 years.

The governance structure, led by an Executive Committee composed of elected officials and other major stakeholder representatives, supports meaningful collaboration among stakeholders. In addition, explicitly incorporating regional and state agencies into the Dynamic Planning Approach strengthens the effectiveness of stakeholder collaboration.

Listed below are near-term tasks necessary to complete this Plan and to gear up for the next rounds of grant funding. The groundwork for longer term objectives must also be set up in the near term.

12.1 Near Term Tasks

Note that this chapter was completed in October 2008.

1. The Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee is holding a public workshop with members of the One Water One Watershed (OWOW) Steering Committee on October 2, 2008. The Department of Water Resources has determined funding region boundaries to be used for disbursing funds from Proposition 84-Chapter 2 for Integrated Regional Water Management Plans. The Santa Ana Funding Region covering portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange Counties will receive \$114 million; the Central Orange County Watershed Management Area may participate in this funding either through the OWOW Plan or by applying as the existing Central

Orange County region. This public workshop will provide an opportunity for the Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee to discuss both planning efforts and weigh the alternatives

Based on this workshop, the Watershed Executive Committee will provide direction for:

- completing the IRCWMP,
- working with SAWPA for our complementary planning efforts,
- · pursuing grant funding, and
- implementing the Plan.
- 2. The Watershed Executive Committee will consider expanding the composition and role of the committee, including:
 - Inviting Cities of Costa Mesa and Santa Ana to join the Executive Committee during 2008.
 - Inviting Northern and Southern Orange County agencies, which interface with the Central Orange County watershed, to participate as stakeholders in the development of future Central Orange County Watershed Plans.
 - Expanding the purpose of the Watershed Executive
 Committee's mission to include all Total Maximum Daily
 Load (TMDL) studies, work plans, and implementation
 projects within the watershed, including the Nitrogen and
 Selenium Management Program and future trading, offset
 and mitigation programs in 2008.

- Expanding the purpose of the Watershed Executive Committee's mission to include coordination opportunities to seek state and federal funding in 2008
- Expanding the purpose of the Watershed Executive Committee's mission to include oversight of the Central Orange County Integrated Regional and Coastal Water Management Plan in 2008.
- 3. Based on the Watershed Executive Committee's direction, Orange County Watershed Division and City of Newport Beach staff will discuss how this round of the planning process should transition and will brief the Stakeholder Committee.
- 4. Follow-up meetings on Regional Performance Objectives and Project Prioritization may then occur as requested by the Stakeholder Committee.
- 5. Project proponents will be asked to complete the Project Information Forms in order to finalize the project priority lists.
- 6. Per the requirements of its grant, the City of Newport Beach will complete its watershed planning efforts, including the Harbor Area Management Plan and submit deliverables to the Department of Water Resources.
- 7. In anticipation of several more rounds of grant funding, each project proponent should work to define a work plan and schedule in order to move that project forward. Each project proponent should also take planning integration steps as outlined in the Plan.

12.2 Longer-Term Plan Tasks

A. The Regional Performance Objectives provide a list of tasks and include the following:

1. ADDRESS FLOOD MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING:

- Conduct a study by 2010 to inspect all storm and flood conveyance systems and provide findings and recommendations regarding the potential impact of climate change on flooding, canyon and channel stability, water quality and habitat.
- Conduct a study by 2010 to provide recommendations on how to reduce peak flow in all the canyons and channels by 10 percent. The study will make recommendations on neighborhood-scale green infrastructure for water capture and treatment.
- Conduct a study by 2012 to look for opportunities to implement stream channel naturalization efforts including the use of eco-friendly engineering structures and softbottomed channels to promote riparian habitat and natural water quality treatment in concert with stable sediment transport and flood safety.

2. ADDRESS SITE-SCALE SURFACE WATER RUNOFF:

- By 2020, reduce the volume of stormwater urban runoff by capturing the first 0.25 inch of rainfall on site.
- Eliminate dry weather urban runoff at site scale by 2020.

3. ADDRESS SURFACE WATER RUNOFF FROM A COMMUNITY:

- Reduce peak flows for a two-year storm event at neighborhood and subwatershed scales by twenty-five percent by 2024.
- For dry-weather flows, reduce point-source discharges to streams, canyons, channels or bay to less than 50 gallons per day per acre of drainage area by 2024.

4. ADDRESS SURFACE WATER RUNOFF AT THE REGIONAL SCALE:

- Meet TMDL requirements for sediment, nutrients, fecal indicator bacteria and toxics.
- Reduce dry weather urban runoff associated with overirrigation and wash-down activities by 50 percent by 2020.
- By 2012, prepare a study to examine commercially available nutrients, herbicides and pesticides and prepare recommendations for moving toward using less toxic substances.
- By 2012, prepare a study to consider modifying stream, canyon and channel habitats to better remove contaminants and to encourage aquatic nutrient cycling. Study the possibility of vegetated riparian buffers on either side of stream channels.
- Implement projects to reduce groundwater pollutant concentrations by 50 percent by 2024.
- Reduce peak flows for a two-year storm event at regional scale by twenty-five percent by 2024.

- Reduce peak flows for a 100-year storm event at regional scale by ten percent by 2024.
- Reduce pet waste discharge into the bay by 90 percent by 2024.

5. ADDRESS WATER SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING:

- Each local agency is to develop a water budget for its service area by 2012.
- Revise the county and municipal General Plans by 2020 to integrate watershed-wise strategies into all elements of a General Plan.
- Increase total local supplies of potable and recycled water to 90 percent of total normal demand by 2024.
- Increase total local supplies of recycled water to 90 percent of total normal demand by 2024.
- Reduce total potable water use by 20 percent by 2024.
- Reduce landscape irrigation by 50 percent by 2024.

6. ADDRESS HABITAT REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING:

- By 2010, prepare a region-wide invasive plant review (including garland chrysanthemum, veldt grass, pampas grass, artichoke thistle, castor bean, and *Arundo donax*) with recommendations for a systematic removal program. Study is to also include recommendations for restricting the sale and planting of problem plants as noxious weeds.
- By 2010, prepare a region-wide invasive animal review,

- including, but not limited to, bullfrogs, African clawed frogs and brown-headed cowbirds with recommendations for a systematic removal program. Study is to include recommendations for restricting the sale of problem animals.
- By 2010, prepare a study that examines the evidence of impacts to the fish and birds in Newport Bay and provide recommendations for setting impact targets based on a weight-of-evidence approach.
- By 2012, prepare a region-wide review of native plants and animals. The study is to identify indicator species with recommendations for targets for indicator species population, number of breeding pairs, and spatial distribution and coverage.
- By 2012, prepare a study of the marine life resources in the Critical Coastal Areas and Areas of Special Biological Significance and prepare recommendations for targets for indicator species population and diversity.
- By 2012, prepare a region-wide review of legal and illegal trails and provide recommendations for increasing the number of legal trails and eliminating illegal trails.
- By 2012, prepare a region-wide study of critical linkages between vegetation communities and provide recommendations for creating wildlife corridors and increasing buffer zones along creeks.
- By 2012, prepare a region-wide study of fire hazard areas in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and provide

recommendations for establishing fuel modification zones, converting non-native, flashy fuel weeds and grasses to native plants, restricting access to certain critical open space areas during the fire season, strengthening building and planning requirements and reviewing fire risks due to power lines and auto traffic.

- Repair and restore 75 percent of degraded wetland/upland habitat around the bay by 2020 (added August, 2009, per Bay/Coastal water quality meeting).
- Repair and restore all degraded bay wetland and upland habitat by 2025 (added August, 2009, per Bay/Coastal water quality meeting).
- Increase freshwater riparian habitat to 50 percent high integrity habitat by 2020.
- 7. ADDRESS FIRE SAFETY IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE (WUI).
- 8. ADDRESS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR REAL ESTATE. Each agency would draft planning policy as part of its General Plan by 2012 that addresses hydrologic, water supply, and habitat needs. Suggestions with regard to drainage, land use planning and pilot projects are discussed in the following sections.
- 9. ADDRESS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR BUSINESSES. Each agency would draft planning policy as part of its General Plan by 2012 that addresses economic, hydrologic, and habitat needs. Suggestions with regard to the workforce, industry and government are discussed in the following sections.

- 10. ADDRESS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS. Each agency would draft planning policy as part of its General Plan by 2012 that addresses transportation, hydrologic and habitat needs.
- 11. FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE CONCERNS, CREATE AN

 UMBRELLA GROUP by 2010 to oversee and facilitate funding for long-term maintenance & operation of all open spaces and water resources infrastructure.
- 12. EACH AGENCY WOULD DRAFT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING
 POLICY AS PART OF ITS GENERAL PLAN by 2012 to highlight the
 partnership with the Watershed Executive Committee for
 effective implementation of the Vision, Goals and Regional
 Performance Objectives of the IRCWMP. Suggestions with
 regard to policy coordination, planning and public works, and
 NPDES requirements, are discussed in the following sections.
- **13. EACH AGENCY WOULD DRAFT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING POLICY** as part of its General Plan by 2012 to promote social networking, including areas of environmental justice, financial, regulatory and data networks.
- **14. EACH AGENCY WOULD DRAFT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING POLICY** as part of its General Plan by 2012 to build local capacity in watershed management through citizen involvement and public education.

- B. There are a number of discussions, studies, plans, projects, programs, partnerships and policies that could be initiated. Examples include:
- 1. CONSIDER WHETHER THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT (DAMP)
 PROGRAM SHOULD BE EXPANDED to incorporate some of the recommendations of this Plan.
- **2. INITIATE A CONVERSATION WITH OCFCD** to look at the potential of expanding its role in watershed management planning.
- 3. INITIATE A WORKSHOP AMONG THE COUNTY AND CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENTS to begin discussions on incorporating a watershed element into General Plans by 2020. Consider developing sustainable land use design pilot plans.
- **4. INITIATE DISCUSSION ON INTEGRATION PLANNING** at the Planning Area level.
- **5. CREATE A REGIONAL WATER BUDGET** for all water resources by 2012.
- **6. PREPARE A STREAM NATURALIZATION HYDROLOGIC STUDY** by 2012 to determine the required in-stream flow volumes and characteristics that would enable both riparian restoration and flood safety. This study should identify required flow rates and volumes, as well as channel areas that present the greatest constraints.

- 7. **PREPARE A STUDY OF THE FINANCIAL COSTS** of the necessary retrofits, which will be needed in order to identify the scale costs of achieving sustainable water resources. This will enable the development of a variety of financing strategies.
- **8. BY 2012, INSTITUTE A MECHANISM THAT WILL FUND AN ACCOUNT** to be used for paying for the next dredging of the bay, anticipated no earlier than 2030 (added August, 2009, per Bay/Coastal water quality meeting).